



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FACT SHEET

MAYOR SANDERS UNVEILS WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION CURRICULUM PACKAGE FOR CITY'S SECOND GRADERS

City's Partnership with School District, Port and Coastkeeper Builds on Mayor's Budget Increase for Improving Storm Drain System

Mayor Jerry Sanders today unveiled the latest installment of Project SWELL, the water pollution prevention curriculum being used in the San Diego Unified School District. The new curriculum is geared to second-graders and completes a four grade package of materials used to teach kids about water quality issues and the effects of urban runoff specific to San Diego. The curriculum compliments and extends the community education efforts to be funded with the \$42.6 million the Mayor has budgeted for storm water system improvements in the next fiscal year.

Project SWELL (Stewardship: Water Education for Lifelong Leadership) was developed in a unique partnership between the City of San Diego, the San Diego Unified School District, the Port of San Diego and San Diego Coastkeeper. Project SWELL materials are already being used in conjunction with science lessons at the fourth, fifth and sixth grade levels. Like the upper grade materials, the new second grade lessons teach students what they can do to help keep San Diego's beaches, bays and waterways free of pollution.

"This is a great way to get San Diego families involved in protecting our beaches and bays. By giving kids information they can use at home and in their own neighborhoods we are extending the reach of the City's community education effort. What these kids learn today will make them better stewards of our environment in the future."

Mayor Jerry Sanders

MAYOR'S FY08 BUDGET INCREASES FUNDING FOR POLLUTION PREVENTION EFFORTS

As part of his commitment to protecting San Diego's environment, Mayor Jerry Sanders has included \$18 million in additional funding for storm water system improvements in his budget

for FY 08. The additional funds will bring total funding for these efforts to \$42.6 million in the coming year. The total funding for FY08 is nearly double the amount dedicated to system improvements in the Mayor's FY07 budget and more than 215% higher than the amount set in the year before Mayor Sanders took office.

MAYOR'S BUDGET AND PROJECT SWELL HELP CITY WITH NEW PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Project SWELL and the funding increases included in the Mayor's FY08 budget will help the City comply with the conditions of its recently updated Municipal Storm Water Permit. The permit is issued by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board and includes a host of new requirements set to take effect for the City in January 2008. Those requirements include increases to the City's community outreach and education efforts.

Project SWELL teaches children about the importance of keeping San Diego's waterways clean. The easy to understand lessons include hands-on components giving students a better understanding of pollution prevention strategies. They teach children about San Diego's recreational waterways and what happens when pollution occurs. The lessons are also designed so that students can apply them outside the classroom, and transfer their knowledge and skills into the home, at the beach, or when playing in their own community.

THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN BEING TRAINED EACH YEAR

Project SWELL reaches thousands of students each year. The new second grade level curriculum will add more than 10,000 additional students to the rosters of those learning about pollution prevention for our beaches, bays and waterways. Each student included in the Project SWELL effort is given age appropriate instruction about the effects of pollution and what they can do to prevent it. The City and its partners are working to finalize the kindergarten curriculum for introduction in 2008. High school level curricula will be developed in the years after that.

- Approximately 10,222 second graders will receive "Sand, Pebbles and Silt" instruction in the coming year.
- 10,661 fourth graders received "Ecosystems" instruction this year.
- 10,668 fifth graders each received "Water" instruction this year.
- 10,019 sixth graders received "Landforms" instruction this year

CITY'S STORM DRAIN SYSTEM REQUIRES COMMUNITY-WIDE ATTENTION

With over 1.3 million residents and more than 20 miles of recreational beaches along its 57 miles of coastline, San Diego ranks as one of the world's largest waterfront cities. The storm drain system serving San Diego's urban area is directly connected to the coast and requires attention and pollution prevention efforts from everyone living here.

- San Diego has more than 700 miles of storm drains which eventually lead to our beaches, bays and ocean
- There are over 208 storm drain outfalls that lead to local waters
- Between Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006, the City removed more than 34 tons of debris from City storm drains.